

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01225 281937Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 281504Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6640

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG,UR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT TO CAIRO

1. WE HAVE PICKED UP VERY LITTLE SO FAR ON MOTIVATIONS BEHIND GROMYKO'S VISIT TO CAIRO NEXT WEEK. EGYPTIAN EMBOFF ON WHOM WE CALLED JANUARY 28, NOT SURPRISINGLY, PUT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF A RETURN FOR THE DECEMBER FAHMY VISIT AND GENERALLY SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN DIFFERENCES. HE IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT SAY, THAT THE VISIT IS AT SOVIET INITIATIVE. STORIES BEING PUT OUT BY ROMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS HERE ARE THAT SOVIET WANT TO USE VISIT TO SMOOTH OVER DIFFERENCES RATHER THAN TO READ RIOT ACT TO EGYPTIANS.

2. SOVIET PRESS HAS SURFACED REPORTS THAT ONE OF SADAT'S AIMS IN PARIS IS TO OPEN AN ALTERNATE LINE OF ARMS SUPPLIES. PRAVDA ON JANUARY 28 CITED SADAT'S STATEMENT IN AN INTERVIEW FOR FRENCH TV THAT ONE OF HIS BASIC REASONS FOR HIS TRIP TO FRANCE WOULD BE "TO RECEIVE ARMS." RED STAR ON THE SAME DAY REPORTED THAT FRENCH AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE COMPLETED PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONSON LARGE DELIVERIES OF FRENCH ARMAMENTS TO EGYPT AND QUOTED A BEIRUT NEWSPAPER (AN NAKHAR) ON THE ITEMS INVOLVED: MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, SUPER FRELON HELICOPTERS, MODERN TANKS, ANTI-TANK WEAPONRY, AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAS APPOINTMENT
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, WITH DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA NEAR EAST

COUNTRIES DIVISION PYRLIN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BY OPENING
OF BUSINESS THAT DAY IN MOSCOW ANY LINES OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE US TO PURSUE.
MATLOCK

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